

## POSITIONING OF THE DECIMAL POINT

In the Shopfitting, Kitchens and Detail Joinery industry we calculate surface areas in square metres (M2). The reasons we do this is because:

1. If we calculated in square millimetres, we would require a lot of space for all the numbers used. For example  $1000\text{mm} \times 1000\text{mm} = 1,000,000 \text{ mm}^2$
2. All of the suppliers of sheet materials e.g particle boards and laminate, price their products by the square metre.

So, to simplify our calculations we convert our millimetre dimensions into decimals of a metre.

for example: we say

$1000\text{mm} = 1.0\text{m}$	or	$5000\text{mm} = 5.0\text{m}$
$100\text{mm} = .1\text{m}$	or	$500\text{mm} = .5\text{m}$
$10\text{mm} = .01\text{m}$	or	$50\text{mm} = .05\text{m}$
$1\text{mm} = .001\text{m}$	or	$5\text{mm} = .005\text{m}$

Now, you try converting the following millimetre dimensions to metres.

a. 2345 =        m    b. 465 =        m    c. 1987 =        m    d. 3 =        m

e. 26 =        m    f. 936 =        m    g. 23678 =        m

h. 7389 =        m

You will find the answers on the next page, but try and work them out for yourself first.

Answers to questions on previous page.

a. 2.345m   b. .465m   c. 1.987m   d. .003m   e. .026m   f. .936m

g. 23.678m   h. 7.389m